



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

June 14 to June 28, 2004

NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Week of 6/14: The Chicago, Illinois, Police Department linked two homicides that occurred two months apart through ballistic imaging. Officers were called to check on the occupants of a vehicle parked on a street. Upon arrival the officers found the two occupants had been shot and killed. Police recovered cartridge casings and projectiles and submitted them to the Illinois State Police Laboratory for entry into NIBIN. Almost two months later police responded to a report of a man who was shot at a food store. Witnesses told police that two males entered the store and demanded money from the cashiers. A security guard who attempted to exit a security booth was shot and killed by the suspects. A fired projectile was recovered and imaged into NIBIN, which resulted in a link to the homicide two months earlier. The investigation is ongoing.

Week of 6/21: The Boston, Massachusetts, Police Department used the NIBIN system to link a handgun recovered during a vehicle stop to a shooting that occurred two weeks before. Boston Police responded to a report of shots fired where a witness indicated he observed a suspect walk down the street and fire several shots into a group of males. The witness also saw another male get out of a car that was parked at the location and return gunfire. Both suspects ran from the location. Responding officers located spent shell casings and had them entered into NIBIN. Two weeks later, Boston Police made a vehicle stop in an area known for high firearms activity. The three occupants of the vehicle were searched and police recovered a .45-caliber pistol with an obliterated serial number. The gun was test fired and entered into NIBIN resulting in the link to the shooting two weeks before.

Week of 6/28: The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department used ballistic imaging through NIBIN to assist them in quickly linking a firearm recovered from a suspect involved in an altercation at a nightclub to a shooting a week earlier. Police responded to a call about a victim who was shot after an automobile accident. The occupants of the other vehicle pursued the victim and his two passengers and shot at them as they fled. The victim was wounded in the leg, but managed to drive the vehicle to his home. When police arrived, they saw extensive damage to the vehicle, including bullet holes, and recovered several cartridge casings as evidence. The casings were imaged into NIBIN. A week later Police observed a large crowd outside a nightclub where several in the group were pushing and shoving each other. One of the responding officers spoke with a security guard who described an unknown male involved in the altercation. The officers looked around the area for the suspect and saw him running in the parking lot with what appeared to be a firearm in his hand. The officer identified himself and told the suspect to drop the weapon. After a brief chase, the officers caught the suspect and recovered a pistol. Entry of the test-fired cartridge resulted in the link to the shooting at the automobile accident a week before. The suspect was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and a felony firearm violation.